

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 13. This sheet, which includes Figure 13, replaces the original sheet including Figure 13. In Figure 13, the figure is labeled as "Prior Art."

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 18, 2008 the Office noted that claims 1-20 were pending and rejected claims 1-20. Claims 8, 19 and 20 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, claim 21 has been added, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1-21 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections and objections are traversed below.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to. In particular the Office asserts that that reference character 1 designates both an "Input Unit" and the Figure itself. The same is asserted as to Figure 2 and "Storing Unit". The Office asserts that using the same reference number as figure number violates 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4).

However, 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) states "[t]he same part of an invention appearing in more than one view of the drawing must always be designated by the same reference character, and the same reference character must never be used to designate different parts." Nothing in this in 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) states that a view number (See 37 CFR 1.84(u)) are analogous to reference number and therefore repeated in the present drawings. Additionally, 37 CFR 1.84(u)(1) states in part "[v]iew numbers must be preceded by the abbreviation 'FIG.'" Thus, even if the

Office asserts that the view number is analogous to a reference number, the reference mark would be "Fig. 1" which is different than "1." The same argument applies likewise to Fig. 2.

The Office further asserts that the Fig. 13 should be designated as "Prior Art". The Applicants have amended the drawing in conformity with the comments of the Office.

The Office asserts that Figs. 4-12 do not include any reference signs failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) states "[r]eference characters not mentioned in the description shall not appear in the drawings. Reference characters mentioned in the description must appear in the drawings." Thus, the rule merely requires that when reference marks are shown in a figure they must also be mentioned in the Specification or likewise, if mentioned in the Specification, be shown in the figure.

However, there is no requirement that the legends as defined in the drawings (See 37 CFR 1.84(o)) contain reference marks as the Office appears to assert.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The disclosure stands objected to for informalities. In particular, the Office asserts that references to Figs. 4-12 lack reference characters. The Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed above with regards to the

objection to the drawings.

The Office further asserts that the Specification contains a typographical error. The Applicants has amended the Specification.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In particular the Office asserts that eleventh additional input and twelfth additional input are vague and indefinite because they redefine limitations previously disclosed.

The Applicants have amended claim 8 to more fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular the Office asserts that the claims are drawn to a computer program not tangibly embodied on a computer readable storage medium. The Applicants have amended the claims to more fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Support for the

amendment may be found, for example in Fig. 3.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 6-11 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Miyamoto, U.S. Patent No. 5,768,129 in view of Kobayashi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0236551. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument.

Miyamoto discusses an environmental assessment system where environmental data about a product is inputted via a single interface and a total environmental impact is calculated by determining inter-relationships between the processes.

Kobayashi discusses a design assistant for designing a new product with reference to environmental factors of a benchmark product.

The present claims are drawn to a system for inputting both environmental factors of a reference system and a target system at the same time in different areas of a single window and calculating the total environmental impact values of said reference system and said targeted system.

On pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action, it is asserted that Miyamoto, col. 5, lines 43-49 disclose "a first input unit that inputs information about said reference system; a first information storing unit that stores said information inputted by

said first input unit; a second input unit that inputs information about said targeted system; a second information storing unit that stores said information inputted by said second input unit."

However, the Applicants respectfully disagree that the first input unit and second input unit are analogous as the Office asserts. The first input and storage units of the claims input and store information about a **reference system** while the second input and storage unit input and store information about a **target system**. They are input so that a calculation of the total environmental impact values of the target system and the reference system can be made **based on** the fact they are input in the corresponding input section.

In contrast, Miyamoto discusses inputting a series of environmental information about any number of processes in a **single** input section (See "INPUT SECTION" 1 of Fig. 2a). The data so collected by "INPUT SECTION" 1 is stored by "DATA STORING SECTION 2." Calculation of the total environmental impact values in Miyamoto is the made by determining inter-relationships between the respective processes stored in the data storing section. (See Miyamoto col. 2 lines 54-56). The user must then manually input an inter-relationship into the input section "an input section which inputs text information relating to contents of each of processes representing the life cycle as a plurality of inter-related processes, **information relating to inter-**

relationships between respective processes." Miyamoto col. 2, lines 35-39 (Emphasis added).

Thus, Miyamoto does not disclose "a calculation unit that calculates total environmental impact values of said reference system and said targeted system **based on** said information stored in said first information storing unit, said second information storing unit, and said third information storing unit," as in claim 1 (Emphasis added). In Miyamoto, the calculation is based on a manually stated inter-relationship, not based on inputting in first unit a reference system and in a second input section a target system and performing the calculation on the two inputs.

The Office does not assert and the Applicants have not found that Kobayashi discloses the features discussed above. For at least the reasons discussed above, Miyamoto and Kobayashi, taken separately or in combination, fail to render obvious the features of claims 1, 9 and 19 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 3-5 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Miyamoto in view of Kobayashi in further view of Sakurai, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0035550. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Sakurai adds nothing to the deficiencies of Miyamoto and Kobayashi as applied against the independent claims.

Therefore, Miyamoto, Kobayashi and Sakurai, taken separately or in combination, fail to render obvious the features of claims 3-5 and 12-14.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM

Claim 21 is new. Support for claim 21 can be found, for example, in claims 4-12 and the supporting text of the Specification. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the inclusion of claim 21. The prior art of record fails to disclose said first input unit that inputs information about said reference system receives input from a first display portion of an input device; and said second input unit that inputs information about said targeted system receives input from a second display portion of said input device, wherein said first display portion of said input device is displayed in close proximity to said second display portion of an input device.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 101 and 103. It is also submitted that claims 1-21 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance

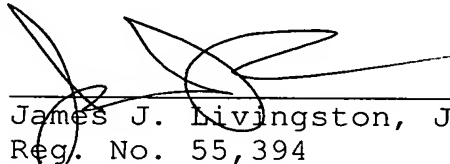
is requested.

Please charge the fee of \$52 for the extra claim of any type to our credit card as set forth on the attached Credit Card Payment Form.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- replacement drawing sheet